Out of these 690 applicants, 549 in Urban and 141 in rural area, have been sanctioned STD PCOs. Rest of the PCOs will be alloted when additional exchange capacity becomes available.

India's reaction to the execution of human rights activists in Nigeria

*159. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) What has been India's reaction over the recent summary trials and executions of human rights activists in Nigeria;

(b) apart from its implied endorsement of the action of the Confederation of Commonwealth countries in the expulsion of Nigeria from its membership, whether India is contemplating any diplomatic censure of the incident; and

(c) whether India is mobilising support for its stance from among the Non-aligned Nations especially those from Africa, and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) India is a party to the Queenstown Declaration of Commonwealth Heads of Government of November 11, 19956.

(b) and (c) India greatly values its relations with Nigeria. Government is closely monitoring international reaction to developments in Nigeria.

Stray cattle impounded by NDMC

*160. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 54 given in the Rajya Sabha on 2nd August, 1995 and state:

(a) the number of stray catties impounded in Delhi by NDMC during the last twelve months, month-wise and how many of them were got released on payment by their owners and how many were auctioned publicly and how much revenue was so collected;

(b) whether the menace of stray cattle continues to be the bane of road users despite the offical claims; and

(c) if so, the concrete steps taken to combat the menace once and for all?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN): (a) to (c) Six hundred and sixty-one stray cattle were impounded in NDMC area during the period November, 1994 to October, 1995 as per details give below:—

Month	Number of cattle impounded
11794	32
12/94	18
01/95	26
02/95	19
03/95	27
04/95	14
05/95	36
06/95	40
07/95	82
08/95	127
09/95	132
10/95	108
Total:	661

Ninety three heads of cattle were released to their owners on payment. No cattle was put to auction during this period. A sum of Rs. 57,800/- was collected as fine/removal charges for releasing the 93 heads of cattle impounded in the cattle pound.

Stray cattle on roads are hazardous to traffic and sometimes do cause road accidents.

The New Delhi Municipal Council has a cattle catching squad for catching stray cattle on the roads under its jurisdiction. The squad makes regular rounds of the roads every day and impounds stray cattle. During the preceding three months the number of heads of cattle impounded has treated, due to rigourous enforcement of provisions of Sections

10,11 and 12 of the Cattle-Tresspass Act, 1871 and Sections 227 and 328 of the NDMC Act, 1994.

Natural Gas Production in Gujarat and Maharashtra

884. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state;

(a) the quantity of natural gas being utilised currently in Gujarat and Maharashtra;

(b) the quantity of gas flared up every day in the above regions;

(c) the quantity of gas being processed into LPG and plans for increasing LPG production in Gujarat;

(d) whether gas from wells which have no oil are kept closed and gas conserved; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) Around 12 MMSCMD and 19* MMSCMD are being utilised currently in Gujarat and Maharashtra respectively.

(b) Around 0.7 MMSCMD is currently being flared in Gujarat. There is no flaring in Maharasthra.

(c) At present around 7 MMSCMD is being processed for LPG extraction in Gujarat. GAIL has proposed setting up a new 370,000 MTPA LPG plant at Gandhar.

(d) and (e) Production from free gas wells is regulated according to demand.

Includes internal use by ONGC at offshore locations.

Extinction of Flora and Fauna

885. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government are aware that many rare species of flora and fauna of the country are at present on the verge of extinction;

(b) whether it is a fact that there have been frequent seizure of skins and other wildlife products in the country;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there are adequate law to protect wildlife but their enforcement is weak; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take to strengthen the present legal protective provisions and if so, when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Although implementation of wildlife laws is being done in the forest areas, national parks and sanctuaries with limited staff, there is inadequate support to deal with the problem of illegal trade in market places and transit points. To overcome this, the following steps have been taken:

(i) This Ministry has set up a National Coordination Committee consisting of representatives of all major enforcement organisations such as: Customs, Revenue intelligence CBI, Police BSF, ITBP, RPF and Foreign Post Office, Traffic-India and Wildlife authorities to enable effective inter-departmental cooperation and coordination to deal with the problem of illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products.

(ii) Training programmes on enforcement and implementation of wildlife and other related laws and